AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. Canceled

~~[c5]~~ 5. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 1~~ An isolated nucleic acid having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

~~(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:6);~~

~~(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:6), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:6);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 6 (SEQ ID NO:6), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 5 (~~SEQ ID NO:5~~);~~ wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which stimulates TNF-α release from human blood.

~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 5 (SEQ ID NO:5); or~~

~~(g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209399.~~

~~[c6]~~ 6. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~);~~

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~);~~

(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(e) the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 5 (~~SEQ ID NO:5~~);~~

(f) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 5 (~~SEQ ID NO:5~~);~~ or

(g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209399;

wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6.

~~[c7]~~ 7. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~.

~~[c8]~~ 8. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

~~[c9]~~ 9. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~, wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6.

~~[c10]~~ 10. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 6 (~~SEQ ID NO:6~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6.

~~[c11]~~ 11. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 5 (~~SEQ ID NO:5~~)~~.

~~[c12]~~ 12. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 5 (~~SEQ ID NO:5~~)~~.

~~[c13]~~ 13. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209399.

Claims 14-16. Canceled

~~[c17]~~ 17. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~1~~ 6.

~~[c18]~~ 18. **(Currently Amended)** The vector of Claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

~~[c19]~~ 19. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A~~ An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 17.

~~[c20]~~ 20. **(Currently Amended)** The host cell of Claim 19, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an E. coli or a yeast cell.

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DELETION OF INVENTORS

Please correct the inventorship under 37 CFR §1.48(b) by removing the following inventors from the present application:

Dan L. Eaton, Ellen Filvaroff, Mary E. Gerritsen, Christopher J. Grimaldi and Colin K. Watanabe.